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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--⁵~~18~~ APRIL 1963

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2. ECUADOR:

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B. DISSATISFACTION WITH THE AROSEMENA
REGIME IS SO WIDESPREAD THAT SOME MOVE AGAINST IT SEEMS MORE
AND MORE LIKELY.

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3. CUBA:

A. CUBAN SOLDIERS ARE TO GET LEANER RATIONS.

B. THOUGH THE MILITARY HAVE BEEN BETTER FED THAN CIVILIANS, WE HAVE SEEN SIGNS IN RECENT MONTHS OF FOOD SHORTAGES

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4. ARAB STATES:

A. IT IS INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT THE VAUNTED ARAB FEDERATION IS A LONG WAY FROM BEING AN OPERATING ORGANIZATION.

B. IT WILL TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS EVEN TO DRAFT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE CHARTER AND STILL MORE TIME TO EFFECT WHATEVER CONSOLIDATION CAN BE AGREED ON.

C. NEVERTHELESS, CAIRO WILL EXTRACT THE MAXIMUM PROPAGANDA JUICE FROM THE AGREEMENT REACHED THUS FAR AND IS ALREADY USING THE "TRIPARTITE ARAB UNITY" SLOGAN TO CLOBBER JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA.

5. INDONESIA:

A. THE LONG-AWAITED SOVIET-INDONESIAN TALKS ON HOW INDONESIA IS TO PAY ITS DEBT TO THE USSR BEGAN IN DJAKARTA ON FRIDAY.

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C. THE RUSSIANS MAY HAVE DECIDED TO MOVE FAST TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MALINOVSKY'S VISIT AND TO STEAL SOME OF THE THUNDER FROM LIU SHAO-CHI'S VISIT.

6. LAOS:

A. THE "CEASE-FIRE" SOUVANNA OBTAINED YESTERDAY AT THE PLAINE DES JARRES MAY ALREADY HAVE BEEN BREACHED.

B. KONG LE REPORTED [] EARLY THIS MORNING THAT HIS TROOPS HAD BEEN ATTACKED ON THE ROAD BETWEEN XIENG KHOUANG AND THE PLAINE DES JARRES; A DISSIDENT NEUTRALIST BROADCAST CLAIMS THAT RIGHTIST TROOPS "COMMANDED BY US OFFICERS" SHELLED KHANG KHAY LAST NIGHT.

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C. KONG LE, IN A PRESS INTERVIEW YESTERDAY, HAD SAID HE "MUST ATTACK AND REGAIN" POSITIONS LOST TO THE PATHET LAO AND THE DISSIDENT NEUTRALISTS UNLESS A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT PROVIDES FOR THE RETURN OF HIS UNITS. HE WILL BE MOST RELUCTANT TO ACCEDE TO SOUVANNA'S REQUEST FOR A RECONCILIATION WITH COL. DEUANE, THE DISSIDENT NEUTRALIST LEADER WHO HAS SERVED AS THE PATHET LAO'S INSTRUMENT IN THE RECENT RUCKUS.

D. LAO ARMY UNITS AND THE MEOS ARE CONTINUING DEPLOYMENTS WHICH WOULD ENABLE THEM TO SUPPORT KONG LE, PARTICULARLY IN HARASSING PATHET LAO LINES OF COMMUNICATION IN AND INTO THE PLAINE DES JARRES.

E. THE PATHET LAO ARE INCREASINGLY SUSPICIOUS OF THIS COLLABORATION. IN A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED SUNDAY, PATHET LAO

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GENERAL SINGKAPO DEMANDED THE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF "IM-
PERIALIST FORCES" WHO HAVE PENETRATED "LIBERATED TERRITORY"
IN THE PLAINE DES JARRES AND NORTH OF VIENTIANE.

F. AMBASSADOR UNGER, NONETHELESS, DID SEE SOME HOPE
YESTERDAY IN THE CONTINUED PROGRAM TO SHORE UP KONG LE, THE
SOMEWHAT FIRMER LINE FROM SOUVANNA, AND THE GROWING AWARENESS
OF THE COMMUNISTS THAT THEY RISK UPSETTING THE GENEVA ACCORDS.
UNGER THINKS COMMUNIST ACTIVITY DESIGNED TO "WEAKEN, DIVIDE,
AND EVENTUALLY DISINTEGRATE THE KONG LE NEUTRALIST FORCES"
MAY RETURN TO A "SLOWER, STEADIER" LEVEL.

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